

THE ANACONDA COMPANY

P.O. BOX 638, GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020



NEW MEXICO OPERATIONS

A. J. FITCH
MANAGER

September 5, 1973

Mr. William T. Dickey, R.S.
District Sanitarian
Indian Health Service
315 North First Street
Grants, New Mexico 87020

Dear Mr. Dickey:

We have now received some information back from our Environmental Engineering Department concerning the ambient air sampling results from the samples taken at the station located close to the west gate of the Paguate-Jackpile Mine.

The samples from which results have been obtained were taken over 24 hour periods on varying days throughout the months of February through May with one being taken the first part of June, a total of 28 in all.

Legal pollution standards for suspended particulate are, as you no doubt know:

National primary ambient quality standards (protects human health)(

24 hour sample - 260 micrograms/cubic meter

National secondary ambient quality standards (protects human welfare such as vegetation damage, soiling, visibility reduction)

24 hour sample - 150 micrograms/cubic meter

New Mexico ambient air standards

24 hour sample - 150 micrograms/cubic meter

Our comparison of the data obtained from the 28 samples with the 24 hour standards shows very low particulate levels, no values exceeded even half of the lowest standard with the average being approximately one

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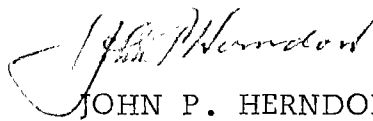
third of the secondary standard. Obviously there is no particulate problem in the atmosphere at the mine.

There are no federal standards for any specific fraction of total suspended particulates, but New Mexico has a 24 hour limit on total metals of 10 micrograms/cubic meter. The metal concentrations in the air as indicated by the sampling are all well below that standard and are of no pollution consequence.

We are continuing the air monitoring and, in the near future we expect to install a more permanent, two station network.

As data becomes available to us, and from time-to-time, we will advise you as to the results of the ambient air sampling.

Sincerely yours,


JOHN P. HERNDON
Assistant Manager

JPH:hr